

PugetSoundPartnership

our sound, our community, our chance

SCIENCE PANEL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Friday, October 24, 2008

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Science Panel Members On Call:

Joel Baker
Guy Gelfenbaum
Robert “Bob” Johnston
Jan Newton
Tim Quinn
Frank Shipley
John Stark
Usha Varanasi
Katharine “Trina” Wellman

Staff on Call:

Scott Redman
Mary Ruckelshaus
Tammy Owings
Cullen Stephenson

Others on Call:

Heather Trim

Call opened at 11:04 a.m. by Science Panel Chair Joel Baker.

During this call the Science Panel discussed:

- Housekeeping Issues
- Action Agenda Review Process
- Biennial Science Work Plan Review Draft

Housekeeping:

Discussed arrangements for the November 18 & 19 Science Panel meeting in Friday Harbor. This meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. on the 18th and go until 5:30 p.m. the first day. On the 19th the meeting will end by 3:00 p.m. Staff are looking into the possibility of chartering a flight up and back and will let Panel members know if this is an option.

Joel Baker and Scott Redman briefed the Leadership Council on October 22 providing the Council with an update on Science Panel work, status of the Biennial Science Work Plan (BSWP), and the Strategic Science Plan (SSP).

Joel reported that the Leadership Council is very supportive of the need for science and adaptive management work in the Action Agenda.

He talked about the need to do a better job of integrating the SSP and BSWP with the Action Agenda. In the current version of the Action Agenda, science is listed in the plan but it needs to be better linked to the actions in the Action Agenda. That will be the next step for the Science Panel, interweaving the BSWP with the AA to make sure the linkage is there.

Scott reported that the Leadership Council meeting materials are posted on the Leadership Council meeting Web page.

The next Conference Call is scheduled for November 7 at 11:00 a.m. and the next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for November 18 & 19.

Action Agenda Review:

Staff was planning to provide the Science Panel with the Threats Summary, list of revised actions in Section 3 and rational for review prior to the Leadership Council meeting but those pieces were not available when expected. Scott will talk to Martha Neuman and see what the revised schedule for Science Panel review will be. It may be that the Science Panel will get the Action Agenda for review at the same time as the public review is released on November 6.

Joel noted that the Leadership Council asked what role the Science Panel would like to have in reviewing the list of initiatives. Currently the list has hundreds of possibilities on the list and is posted on the web site. At its meeting, the Council reviewed the full list, discussed possible criteria to use for further revising of the list, and asked staff to revise the list using the criteria for the next round of discussion and review. The Council would like to make recommendations for around 25 initiatives in the final Action Agenda.

The Panel discussed the proposed criteria that staff will be using to revise the list and how and when the Science Panel should weigh in on the list of initiatives.

Scott noted that, when reviewing the proposed criteria, he found that Science Panel comments had not been reflected. He would be willing to work with Chris Townsend and Martha on behalf of the Science Panel to include those aspects.

Usha felt this feedback should be coming from the Science Panel and Panel members agreed. Scott will draft a response and send to the Panel for review before sending to the Leadership Council from the Panel.

The Panel discussed how to make sure science is integrated into the big picture and how this will be a long-term learning process for both the Leadership Council and Ecosystem Coordination Board.

The Science Panel does not have enough information or time to go through the long list of initiatives but will use this opportunity to make sure the Panel comments are included in the criteria. The Panel will then be involved in the implementation side of the projects

once the Leadership Council and Ecosystem Coordination Board get to the final list of initiatives.

There has not been scientific review of the list yet since many are still in the idea stage but as the ideas go forward as projects the Science Panel would be available to provide the technical support to make sure the projects move forward in a scientific way

Mary reported that there will be time for refinement of the projects in the scoping and development stage of the process.

Science is an ongoing process not a one-time blessing.

Biennial Science Work Plan Review:

Joel thanked everyone for the work that got done while he was away on his honeymoon.

The Panel talked about the timing for release of the review draft of the BSWP. Joel had told the Leadership Council that the draft should be out in about a week. Scott noted that it must be out for review by November 6 since the BSWP is an element of the Action Agenda and this is the start of the public review process. The Panel will try to get the review out before the November 6 deadline.

Several Panel members had submitted revisions to the latest draft Scott had provided but he hadn't had a chance to review all the revisions yet. His sense is that if there are major issues the Panel may need more discussion but if it is just a better way to say something then it won't need discussion and he will just need to integrate the comments and send out next revision. The Panel members didn't believe there were major revisions needed just additional clarification and wordsmithing.

Tim Quinn had provided some general comments which the Panel then took time to discuss during the call as well as the need to integrate the Action Agenda with the Science Plan and the way the document is laid out.

After much discussion the Panel decided on several revisions to make in the document. Mary, Tim, Joel, and Scott, and others if available, will get together by phone on Monday to work through the revisions. The revised document will be out on Wednesday for Panel comment and review. The Panel will then decide on the next steps needed for getting the document ready for public review.

Conference Call adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Next call is scheduled for November 7, 2008, 11:00 a.m.